

Draft

Press Release

21 January 2014

New website helps businesses make a decision at the touch of a button, now that's SPACEial.

The SPACEial Northwest Project is launching a new innovative website that allows users to make business or investment decisions at the touch of a button.

The online project - www.spaceialnw.eu is funded by the European Union's INTERREG IVA Programme and is being led by the North West Region Crossborder Group with Donegal County Council as its lead implementing council.

The project uses a combination of statistics, remote sensing and GIS technologies to identify changes in the rates and levels of urbanisation. It also sets out to identify, capture, locate and map the key determinants of growth and to build up a picture of what is happening within the urban boundaries or what is driving these changes to occur.

Not only is the project a website and map viewer it can also help people to make simple everyday decisions like deciding where people send their children to school or where to avail of local sporting facilities.

The SPACEial NW project works by using predictive analysis and examines the impact that variables have on the changing levels of urbanisation and more importantly the impact that such factors could have on settlement patterns in the future.

It is envisaged that by providing greater insights and understanding to past patterns this will enhance the ability of policy makers to predict the outcome of different policy actions, and the achievement of a more sustainable vision for urban and rural communities in the future.

Central to this it will also help improve the quality of comparable data and information to assist with spatial planning, policymaking and service delivery in the North West Region Cross Border Area for many years to come.

The SPACEial NW project is being launched on Wednesday January 22 at the Regional Cultural Centre, Letterkenny from 10am to 4pm.

Key Speakers include Mr. Niall Cussen, Senior Planning Advisor, Department of Environment, Heritage & Local Government & Dr. Chris Boomer, Development Plan Manager, Department of Environment, Northern Ireland.

You can find out more about this project by visiting our website www.spaceialnw.eu, following us on twitter @SPACEialNW or by contacting the Research and Policy Unit, Donegal County Council, Lifford on 074 91 72569.

The Special EU Programmes Body is a North/South Implementation Body sponsored by the Department of Finance and Personnel in Northern Ireland and the Department of Finance in Ireland. It is responsible for managing two EU structural funds Programmes PEACE III and INTERREG IV designed to enhance cross-border co-operation, promote reconciliation and create a more peaceful and prosperous society. The Programmes operate within a clearly defined area including Northern Ireland, the Border Region of Ireland and Western Scotland.

The INTERREG IVA Programme, funded under the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), is worth €256 million and aims to address the economic and social problems which result from the existence of borders. It has two distinct priority measures to create co-operation for a more prosperous and sustainable cross-border region.

For more information on the SEUPB please visit www.seupb.eu

